GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:919
ANSWERED ON:07.02.2017
Priority areas under PDS
Chauhan Shri Nihal Chand

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the areas identified for according priority under the Public Distribution System (PDS);
(b) whether any provision for special assistance for drought, flood and natural calamity affected areas has been made by the Government; and
(c) if not, the response of the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)
(a): The National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA), which came into force w.e.f. 5th July, 2013 seeks to provide for food and nutritional security in human life cycle approach by ensuring access to adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices to people to live a life with dignity. NFSA provides for coverage of upto 75% of the rural population and upto 50% of the urban population at the all India level for receiving highly subsidized foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). Corresponding to this, State/UT-wise coverage was determined by the then Planning Commission. With the coverage determination for each State/UT, the eligible households identified by State Governments/UT Administrations are entitled to receive subsidized foodgrains as per their entitlements prescribed in the Act. There are no area-specific entitlements under the Act.
However, the Act provides that special focus will be given to the needs of the vulnerable groups especially in remote areas and other areas which are difficult to access, hilly and tribal areas for ensuring their food security.
(b): As per the extant policy of the Government, additional allocation of foodgrains at MSP rates is made to States/UTs in the case of natural calamities based on their demands and supported by relevant documents.
(c): Does not arise in view of (b) above.
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